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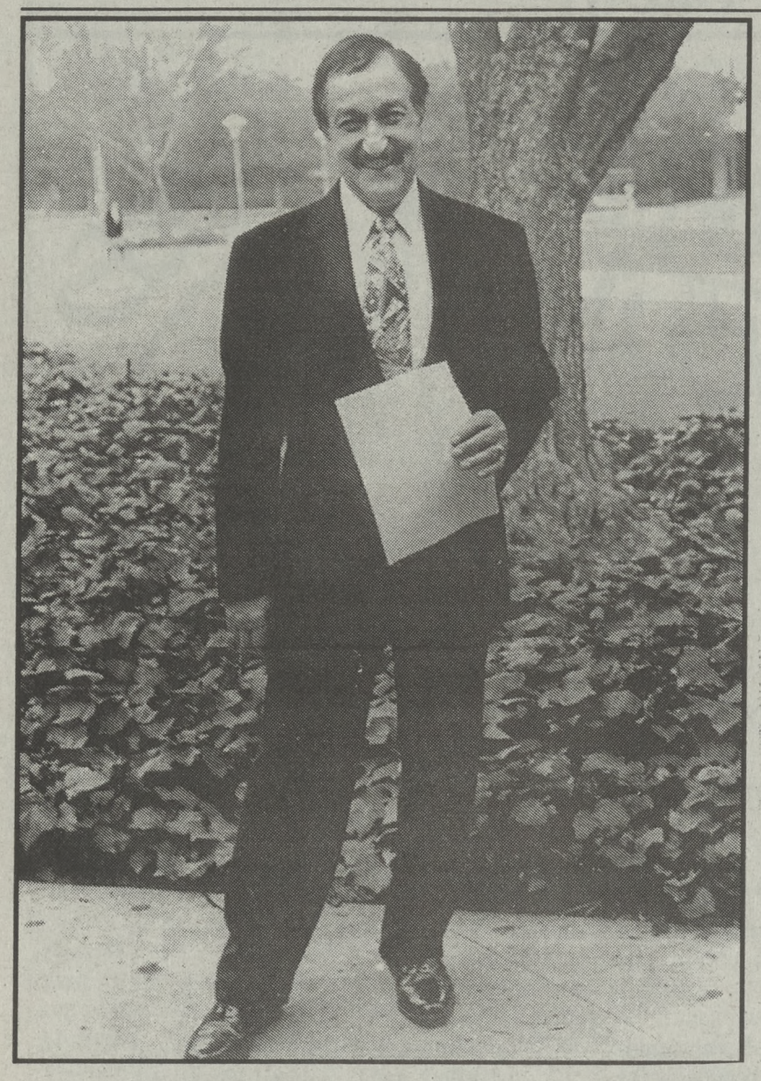
Valley Star

Volume , Issue No. | Los Angeles Valley College | Van Nuys, California | February 8, 1996



Shashra Stewart/Valley Star

Dean Mayo Provides More Space

Transcripts Saved

by Adam Adler
Valley Star Staff Writer

A controversial issue, whether or not students could have academic honors listed on Valley College student transcripts, stirred faculty and student governments the first two weeks of the semester. The Curriculum Committee settled the matter during its meeting Jan. 24, agreeing to list the honors if space provided, defeating a proposal intended to save room on the grade documents.

As the Fall 1995 semester ended, the Curriculum Committee began examining how much space was available on student transcripts. Committee members were concerned because, at the end of transcripts, only four lines of memo space was provided on the form. Of the four lines, certain legal and required information had the first priority. But that space was also used to list student honors such as Tau Alpha Epsilon membership or service on ASU's Executive Council. At first consideration, the committee decided students should be responsible for listing their honors on job or college application forms, and Valley College's transcript form space would be used only for academic information.

The Committee finalized its proposal. The question next went to the Academic Senate for consideration. After the Academic Senate approved the change, Dean of Student Affairs Sam Mayo first heard the proposal. Dean Mayo said he thought the measure would be harmful to students. He launched a protest with the support of the ASU. After finding unresolved issues, the Senate sent he proposal back to the Curriculum Committee to be considered again.

Dean Mayo then went to the Los Angeles Community College District office to see how much space could be allowed on the transcripts. After debating the matter with Mayo, officials arranged space for 20 extra lines at the end of the transcripts.

Once the Curriculum Committee learned of the new development, it considered the matter again Jan. 24. The committee agreed the space at the bottom of transcripts was large enough to fit student honors, as long as that listing did not interfere with other college requirements. The new ruling was made subject to periodic committee review.

Robert Lane, president of Tau Alpha Epsilon, attended the Jan. 24 meeting to advocate keeping honors on transcripts. After the meeting, Lane said, "Having the honors (printed) means more than just saying it on application, it is a validation of what you have done."

The chair of the Curriculum Committee, John Maddox, expressed his opinions about transcript listing priorities. He said "Whatever has to go there should go there and what students or administrators want to put down they can as long as it doesn't get unreasonable."

The Changing of the Guard

by Sierra Roberts
Valley Star Staff Writer

Next week Valley will be getting a new ASU cabinet and president. The Presidential position is usually held for an entire year, but failure to meet grade requirements has made it necessary for the student body to elect a replacement for Lorenzo Trujillo.

Elections will be held on Wednesday Feb.14 and Thursday Feb. 15 in Monarch Square. Along with all the Commissioner positions which are elected every semester, three new officers will have to be voted on. According to Dean Barnhart, one officer has transferred to a four-year school and two were found ineligible because of grades.

The grade requirement for all ASU officers is nine units completed with a 2.0 G.P.A. Barnhart added "we have been using a constitution that was considerably different form other schools in the community college district." However, the constitution has been modified and updated, and will be effective in the Fall of 1996.

Trujillo said he would take responsibility for his failing grades. He also stated, "I would rather work on my grades and forget about it."

Due to the changes in the cabinet and the delayed election, the campus had found itself without the ASU for several weeks. The hold up can be attributed to checking all the members grades.

Valley College Still Mourns Roy Murphy

by Kelli Morgan
Valley Star Staff Writer

Last semester, Valley College suffered a great loss. Roy A. Murphy, Jr.'s untimely death has touched the lives of many around campus and it will for a long time to come. He was a young man in his early thirties, not only a dedicated, hard-working, employee but he was a loyal friend and confidant to many.

Roy came to Valley in September, 1991 and was soon one of the most well-liked and respected members of Charles Long's custodial team.

According to Long, Operations Services Manager, " He was a great guy, happy go lucky and liked by everyone. " This was apparent as Long and two of Murphy's long-time friends and Valley College co-workers, Peter James and Leon Hardin, who was also Murphy's roommate, reminisced about Murphy.

"He always went out of his way to help someone else." Hardin said, as he explained how Murphy once helped some plumbers from another department work on an over-burdening task.

Long remembers the day he hired Murphy four years ago. When asked what the main attraction was to Murphy, Long replied, "He was very enthusiastic, no job was too small or too large." Long also said that Murphy was the one always willing to pick up extra work or the projects that were sometimes undesired by others.

Throughout the four years Long supervised Murphy's work, he has received many letters of appreciation about him from instructors and administrators.

Roy Murphy lost his life in what started out to be a celebration for his best friend and co-worker, Rodney Allen. Allen had just graduated from the Police Academy and was due to start work at the Valley College Campus Police Dept. The men were involved in an automobile accident which proved fatal for Murphy. Allen suffered from a fractured vertebrae in his neck and will be recovering for at least six months to a year, possibly longer.

Services were held for Murphy Nov. 20, 1995 at Rucker's Mortuary in Pacoima. According to Long, the attendance was overwhelming. School officials instructors, students, friends and family were all in attendance at the standing-room-only memorial service.

Murphy is survived by his three young children, ages 5 to 13. A memorial fund has been set up for the family and anyone wishing to donate may do so at the Valley College Facilities Dept., Charles Long's office, located next door (east) of the Campus Police Dept.; the fund has collected over $1,300 so far.

Roy Murphy was laid to rest at Eternal Valley Memorial Park in Newhall, Calif.

The instructors, students, administrators, his family and certainly his co-workers will continue to miss Roy Murphy. The job of filling his position will be a tough one; there aren't many who could fill Roy Murphy's shoes.

Maria Ivey/Valley Star

New Vice President Of Academic Affairs

by Allen Cochrane
Valley Star Staff Writer

Former Los Angeles Valley College instructor and department chair, Dr. Anita Susan Carleo, currently chief instructional officer at Schenectady Community College in New York, has been chosen as the new vice president of academic affairs for Valley College.

With the appointment of Dr. Carleo, Valley College has succeeded in acquiring the services of a top administrator. This during in a time when community colleges are hampered by budget constraints and struggling to be competitive with the business world.

Dr. Carleo was the successful candidate chosen from a group of 32 applicants for the vice president position.

A committee, composed of five administrators, three faculty, one classified (support service), and one Affirmative Action member, interviewed eight of the candidates and submitted four names to Valley College President, Tyree Wieder, for final interviews and selection.

continued on page 3

NEWS NOTES:

A forum entitled "Creation and Evolution" will be held Thursday, Feb. 8 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Monarch Hall. Professors Leon Albert, Zev Garber and Kelly Ross will speak about "scientific" creationism, genesis and morality, politics, economics and philosophy .

The Orange County Fair is offering an Advance Ticket Fundraising Program. Participating non-profit organizations can sell tickets and receive $1 for every $10 ticket book sold . For more info. Call the Fair's group sales office at (714) 708-1526 .

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra is now offering $6 rush tickets two weeks in advance to students with valid ID. For more information, call (213) 850-2000.

The Friends of World Teaching and Friends of World Nursing Programs are offering overseas job placements. Write the agency at P.O. Box 1049, San Diego, CA, 92112-1049; or call (619) 299-1010.

The Financial Aid office will offer an Informational Workshop about the financial aid process in CC 104 Feb. 15 from 5-6 p.m. and Feb. 21 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. to answer questions, give general information and offer help with forms.

The new Career Transfer Center will hold an Open House Feb. 15 from noon until 2 p.m. with a tour, EUREKA/SIGI Plus computer demonstrations and refreshments.

The Student Health Clinic is once again sponsoring a blood drive Feb. 28 and 29. To support this event, please call the clinic at (818) 780-0652.

The Counseling Center's ongoing lecture series will focus on Financial Aid Feb. 13, followed by "What Every Athlete Should Know " Feb. 20. The lectures are held in FL 102.

ASU elections will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14 and Thursday, Feb. 15 in Monarch Square.

Sam Mayo's Retirement Dinner will be held at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades March 8. The cost is $35.00 per person, gift included. For more information call Eileen Pearl or Dennis Reed at (818) 781-1200 x424.

Graffitti Art or Tagging?

by S. Launer
Valley Star Staff Writer

Here we are raising the issue of tagging but it's not being found where people usually see it and complain about it. It's not only a problem on the streets, it's on the campus bathroom walls. Some people feel that "taggers" would stop their unwanted "art" from appearing on private property if only there were an outlet for these taggers to express themselves.

It has been rumored, officials at a community college in Berkeley, Calif. thought, that if chalkboards and chalk were made available in the bathrooms on campus tagging would be eliminated. Much to the dismay of campus officials, this graffiti that some claim to be their "artistic expressions" are still appearing on undesired surfaces; the problem has decreased since chalkboards were installed.

There are those who claim to be "graffiti artists" and are offended by the over generalized term tagger.

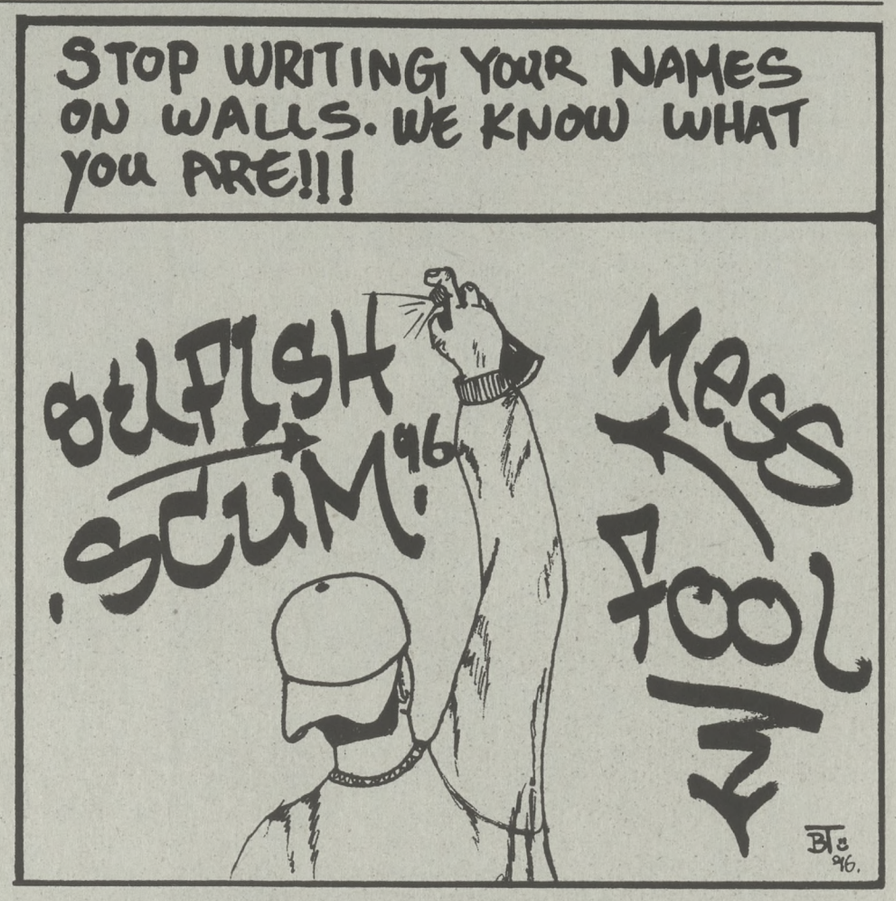
One local graffiti artist explained how she was kept out of gangs because she was able to express her artistic abilities rather than spray painting the name of a gang. She said she had heard of existing graffiti walls where it's legal for graffiti artists to display their talent, but she doesn't know of their location. Because of the illegal expression of her talents on private properties, her name cannot be revealed.

A police representative from the Van Nuys Police department said there is zero tolerance for graffiti in Los Angeles County and called taggers and graffiti artist "monsters" who destroy property and need to go to jail.

A suggestion to the Art department of Valley College is to sponsor an art "war" to get graffiti artists interested in exploring their talents, it would perhaps increase enrollment at Valley College.

Suggestions by other students are encouraged. Your comments can be given to the Valley Star in Bungalow 25.

Keep in mind, when you tag on campus property, the school has to pay for supplies to clean up the mess left behind. The clean up costs are more than an average student makes in a year, which results in higher costs of tuition.



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Real Estate
Respiratory Therapy
Theater Arts

L.A.V.C.
MONARCHS

World Class Foreign Language Department

by Jo-ana D'Balcazar
Valley Star Staff Writer

Many of us are not really aware of what's going on with our teachers. Basically, we just come to class and that's it. For instance, did you know that some teachers of the foreign language department are well known, not only for the work done at the college, but on a national level?

Well, I didn't. I am proud to know that at Valley we have such outstanding teachers. The department is composed of eight full-time teachers, Chairperson Dr. Carmen Salazar, Dr. Sybille Peniche, Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Lena Velardi, Giovanni Trombetta, Evelyn Leisner, Paul Harper, and Maria Elena Frances-Benitez.

They strive to maintain an effective learning environment in which students are encouraged to develop and use their individual languages skills to the fullest potential.

Salazar served as Mentor in the National Endowment for the Humanities funded project "Improving Foreign Language Education in Community Colleges." For her outstanding work, she has been invited to serve again in the project sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges to explore the topic, "What it means to be an American."

She also belongs to the Modern Language Association and is a member of the Delegate Assembly and the Committee on Languages and Literature of America. Bravo!

I also found out that for four years Salazar was the Chief Faculty Consultant for the Advanced Placement Program in Spanish and was responsible for the grading of over 30,000 national exams.

Another teacher who has excelled on the international level is Professor Leisner, who received the distinguished honor, "Chevalier des Palmes Academiques," from the French government for her outstanding contribution and commitment for promoting the French culture and its language. The recognition was presented by the Attache Culturel of Los Angeles.

She is actually the Regional Representative for the Western States of the American Association of Teachers of French. This year, Leisner was selected by the College Board and Educational Testing Service, to set standards and evaluate student examinations in the advanced placement reading.

Paul Harper, has served as vice president at the chapter level of the American Association of Teachers of French.

Continuing my discovery, I also found out that Dr. Peniche participates with the German Cultural Institute "Goethe." Peniche also helps students to enroll in a program that offers them a job in Germany and Switzerland, and at the same time they earn 12 units. "It's a wonderful experience for the students. They have the opportunity to immerse in the culture, and improve their language skills," says Peniche.

Now, going to the Italian section, Trombetta serves as a counselor of the foreign language section of the Jaime Escalante Educational Fund (JEEF), a non-profit organization which strives for excellence in education. "The JEEF seeks to inspire students to reach their maximum academic and personal potential, with the legacy of Professor Escalante, who inspired the film `Stand and Deliver,'" says Trombetta. He also volunteers with the Italian Cultural Institute.

However, despite the overwhelming accomplishments of the department, it's unfortunate that students can't benefit from all the knowledge and skills of their teachers because of a limited number of classes and equipment.

Nevertheless, with her enthusiasm, Salazar emphasizes that in spite of budget cuts and lack of equipment, she has the confidence to keep the department as strong as ever to meet the students' needs. "We have great teachers, and I am proud of their continuous dedication to benefit our students," says Salazar.

The increasing spread of commercial exchange and, even more significant, with the ongoing diffusion of industrial communication, the demand for foreign language in all areas of work is increasing. Many professionals are coming to Valley College to enhance their career skills.

Madeleine Arnold, a certified international athletic official, came to Valley College because she has great confidence that Trombetta will help her improve her Italian. "I have applied to become an official judge for the '96 Olympics, and I need to upgrade my language skills." says Arnold.

Miyuki Hayashi, an opera singer, says, "I need Italian, French, and German because they are the major languages used in operatic arias. I'm glad I chose Valley College to improve my languages skills. Professor Trombetta is a wonderful teacher. He has the talent to make you feel the joy of learning Italian."

Even though Jewish studies are not included in the foreign language department. I would like to mention that Professor Zev Garber is a great asset to the college. He receives invitation from all over the country to give lectures and has put the name of Valley College in the spotlight. He also writes for many publications and has published the book "Shofar." As a teacher, he is magnificent. I remember when I almost dropped Hebrew because I thought I could never learn their alphabet (those little scribbles). To tell the truth, I'm glad I didn't because with his dynamic teaching method and enthusiasm, he helped me break down barriers of uncertainty in learning Hebrew. Shalom!

I would like to commend the department for its accomplishments and for the teachers' dedication to us. They are making a difference, and the students are profoundly grateful, especially me. Keep up the good work!

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Published Thursdays throughout the school year by students of the Journalism and Photography classes using computers and Aldus Pagemaker.

Represented by CASS
Advertising Service
1800 Sherman Pl.
Evanston, IL. 60201

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5800 Fulton Avenue Van Nuys , Calif. 91401
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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

The Benefit of Remedial Classes

by Jo-ana D'Balcazar
Valley Star Staff Writer

A growing concern among educators is whether or not remedial programs have a place in universities and colleges. Elementary and high schools are charged with providing a basic education, which will enable students to pursue a higher education at the college level. However, many students remain unprepared for college because they lack fundamental English and Mathematics skills.

Some educators believe that remedial courses should begin at the high school level. They believe high school graduates should be prepared for college, and show that preparedness by passing a college entrance exam.

Mary Perez, one parent of a high school student says, "High schools have the responsibility to teach our children the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics, to enable them to pass university entrance examinations."

Dean of Academic Affairs Lee Hancock says, "Remedial programs are designed to correct learning deficiencies. Their purpose is to prepare students to participate successfully in the U.S. system. Remedial programs are also for people who lack basic skills and want a second chance at getting an education," says Hancock.

However, for students to make a successful transition to higher education, it is important they have a solid foundation in learning. This begins in kindergarten, proceeds through grade school, and if students apply themselves, to college level.

Although there are many reasons for dropping out, the pursuit of basic skills is vital. "Some students drop out of high school because they need to work in order to provide for their families. Others simply won't apply themselves. On the other hand, many of LAVC students are from other countries and already have a degree. Unfortunately, they lack the basic English skills to be successful," says Hancock.

Remedial programs, to a certain degree, enable students to overcome what they lack in basic skills. "Among the remedial courses offered at LAVC, there are: English 21, 23, 33, 83, and 84, Chemistry 68, History 30, Development Communications and many others," says Hancock.

Many students are proof of their effectiveness. Lizbeth Ortuste, a musician, who received her bachelor's degree from the Universidad de Tomas Frias de Potosi, in Bolivia, says, "Some adult schools only teach basic English, making it impossible to acquire fluency at a professional level. Remedial English courses have helped me a lot with my writing skills. My goal is to speak and write English to be able to work in my career. It would be sad to eliminate these programs."

Dr. Frank Sinsheimer, dean of academic affairs, says, "Community college goals are to prepare students for transfer to a university, provide them with an occupational/vocational education, lifelong learning and basic skills development so that they can succeed at the university."

Sinsheimer says, "Employers are looking for individuals with communication skills. However, you can't be all you can be without reading, writing and mathematics skills. Students won't be able to succeed in the workplace without them; for example, jobs that require math. If they are beyond the students' skills, they are doomed to fail unless they avail themselves to remedial programs."

Dr. Hancock says, "There is a growing demand for remedial courses. If Cal State Universities stopped teaching these programs and sent those students needing them to community colleges, it would be very hard on many students. It will also change the character of community colleges. We don't want to maintain a remedial college."

Vice President (con't.)

Jack L. Sterk, the faculty president, said the choice of Dr. Carleo was the result of her meeting a variety of criteria such as, "Overall management ability, current technology skills and concern for what will be happening in future technology, and ability to deal with a multi-cultural campus such as Valley College."

"I feel they were seeking an individual who could lead in many areas," said Dr. Carleo. "Someone who understands planning, program revue, education technology and has a grasp of the role of the college in the community and how we must interact with it." Dr. Carleo feels she was selected for the position because, "I've demonstrated my abilities as both an administrator and a teacher."

Dr. Carleo brings experience garnered from a variety of positions in the community college field. She spent the first ten years of her community college career at Valley College as an instructor and department chair in Family and Consumer Studies, followed by two years as the director of the Center for the Advancement of Business, Labor, and Education (CABLE). At Los Angeles Harbor College, Dr. Carleo spent a year as interim vice president of academic affairs followed by four years as associate dean of vocational education. For the past three years she has been chief instructional officer at Schenectady Community College in New York.

"It is Dr. Carleo's experience at Schenectady Community College which should work to great advantage for Valley College," says Jeanne Polak, currently a professor in the English department at Valley College.

Professor Polak worked closely with Dr. Carleo during her first tenure at Valley College in the Family and Consumer Studies department and says, "Dr. Carleo is attentive to detail and a dedicated professional. She will come back and look at Valley College in a new way and see different needs. She has worked here, at another college in our district, outside our district, and has had the opportunity to see different setups and organization; plus she's been exposed to a great variety of novel, inventive ideas."

Dr. Carleo feels her first priority at Valley College will be to, "Reacquaint herself with the school by talking with faculty, department chairs, administration, and students themselves to see what the greatest concerns are and determine how to approach them."

She feels another priority will be, "Institutional planning, we will need to delve into all aspects of long and short planning for the college as identified by Valley College's last accreditation revue. We need to be aware of any job market transitions; our goal should be to identify when we need change to meet employer and business needs."

Faculty development is also seen as a primary goal of Dr. Carleo. "It is extremely important to provide regular workshops, training sessions, seminars," she says. "Specific accreditation of subject matter gives an assessment of how you stand up and compare in your field."

Faculty President, Sterk, says government education budget cutbacks are a stumbling block affecting the ability of schools to hire quality personnel. "It's a problem statewide," says Sterk. "From a faculty point of view, not as many good people are available for administration level or teaching positions. We have to work harder to be competitive."

Dr. Carleo says, "We must create a positive climate for both faculty and administration and make the schools a place where people want to be." She feels the loyalty of educators to their profession is one positive aspect of the recruiting process. "Many of us in the community college education field are not here solely for the money. We are very much in love with the system and how it promotes self-development and growth."

Dr.Carleo says she is very positive about her return to Valley College and the tremendous challenge and opportunity presented.

"Valley College is a beautiful facility with lots of things to offer the students, and is an important part of the community," she says.

News Notes (con't.)

The Book Grinders in Van Nuys will feature an exhibit of photographs taken by children living at Gramercy Place Homeless Shelter in L.A, sponsored by Photo Outreach. The exhibit is showing until Feb. 15th. For information on the exhibit, call (818) 988-4503. For information on Photo Outreach, call Venida Korda at (818) 789-2278.

The Book Grinders will hold a Teachers' Open House Sat., Feb. 17 from noon to 5 p.m. Teachers will receive discounts on purchases. Call (818) 988-450.3

The J. Paul Getty Trust is sponsoring summer internships for students of culturally diverse backgrounds. The application deadline is March 4. Call (310) 451-6545 for applications and requirement information.

Students considering a transfer to Cal State Northridge are invited to attend a Career Conference Feb. 10 at CSUN's University Student Union from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.

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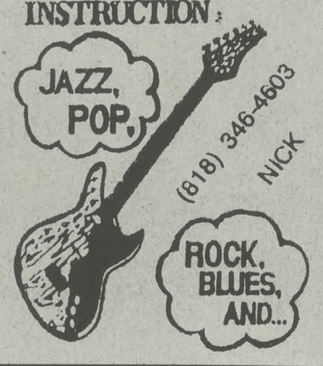

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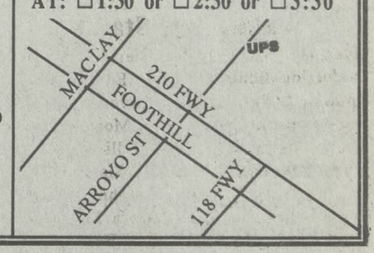
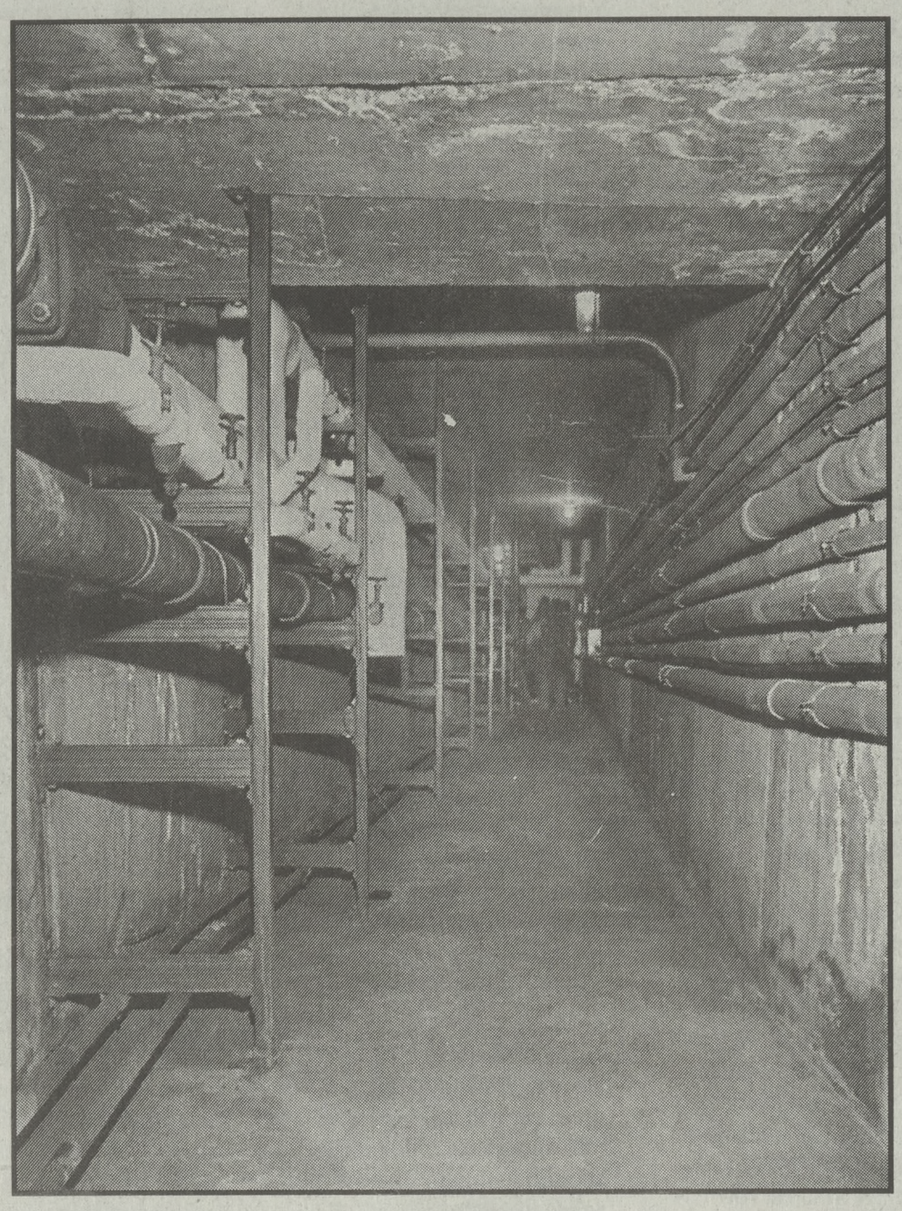




Maria Ivey/Valley Star

The Secret Tunnels of Valley College

by Adam Adler
Valley Star Staff Writer

Buried deep within the belly of the school, lurking underneath the walk ways and classrooms you use every day, lie nearly one-half mile of winding tunnels. These dark, damp, and foreboding tunnels reach most of the buildings on campus and have been in existence since the school was built. They were built for one purpose: to keep you warm.

Up until now hardly anyone on campus knew about the tunnels. They house the heating pipes for all of the permanent buildings on campus. To promote better understanding of the system, a faculty tour of the tunnels and Boiler Room was presented on February 25. The tour showed how the system worked and helped explain the problems that arise in heating the school.

The heaters in every room are connected to pipes that runthrough the tunnels to the Boiler Room. Unlike the direct fire method used in most homes that immediately heats air, the schooluses boilers to make steam. The steam is carried through the pipes to one of the heat exchangers that each building has.

The steam is then used to heat water which is piped to the individual heaters that then heat the air. The system is one- fourth the cost of what it would be to heat the campus by direct fire; it is the same system that has been used since the school was built.

The entire operation is run and serviced by the Heating and Ventilation staff consisting of four technicians. The staff was very open to showing and explaining the boiler room and tunnels. At times, it was almost like kids presenting their first science project. The technicians, Matt Needham, Bryan Bietsch, John Beckers and their supervisor Robert Domin, answered questions and ran through their daily routines. In addition to maintaining the heaters, they work on the boilers, air conditioners, refrigerators and 2000 feet of pipes that run through the tunnels. .

The biggest problem that the staff faces is heating all the rooms to a satisfying temperature. Each room has a thermostat that is preset to keep a specific temperature, like most heating systems. The thermostats are connected to the Boiler Room by pneumatic, or air, controls where the heat can be varied to suit individual needs. The amount of heat to the rooms can be varied; however, the flow of air that is run through the system remains constant. Fan driven ventilation shafts channel outside air in at a constant rate. The air is then heated or chilled, where air conditioning is present, until the room is the proper temperature and tries to maintain that temperature. Because it uses older technology, the system does not shut on and off.

Another problem is when people using classrooms have different opinions about the temperature. Some people find the set temperature acceptable while others think it is too hot or cold. The heating and ventilation staff tries its best to be accommodating. Some of the thermostats are so old that they are not marked with temperatures; they just change from hotter to colder.

Domin, the supervisor, commented "We give you what you ask for. If you want it cooler we make it cooler."

All the staff are licensed HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Condition) technicians. Air conditioning is defined all types of ventilation, not just cooling. To become a technician requires seven years of schooling, two in a trade college, and five in an apprenticeship. In addition to seeing the rooms are heated, they service the boiler and perform routine maintenance on the system.

The boilers have to be started manually through opening and adjusting the natural gas valve. Once the steam has reached 75 lbs. of pressure the gas is then turned down to maintain the pressure. The water used in the boilers requires routine testing for sulfur, phosphate, pH and total dissolved solids to make sure its not corrosive and will not clog up the system. Every morning, the boiler used on the previous day has to be "flushed" of the burnt material that collects in the water tank.

The pipes in the tunnels do spring leaks and need to be patched up routinely. Sometimes, the steam loses it's "condensation" by escaping heat that causes it to revert back to liquid water. When this happens the pipes leak water and have to fixed in order to restore pressure in the system.

The tunnels are a system in itself. The two tunnels, an east tunnel and a west tunnel, run roughly from Burbank Blvd. to Oxnard. In addition to housing the steam pipes, the tunnels hold the school's main power lines, the electrical transformers, sewer lines, and refrigeration equipment for the cafeteria. The tunnels range in depth from eight to ten feet and its concrete walls are 24 inches thick. During the Northridge Earthquake the tunnels remained unharmed.

Needham explained, "These (the tunnels) are considered industrial buildings. They are built a third over building code standards." His colleague, Bietsch, added, "It did get kind of scary during the aftershocks though."

There is access to some of the building directly through the tunnels. One access leads directly to the middle of the library. On Jan. 1, 1995 a group of taggers found an outdoor access way and broke in. Altogether, they had put up over 300 tags in the tunnels. They even sprayed the side of a electrical transformer with 40,000 volts running through it. The technicians painted over every tag in the tunnel.

Work in the tunnels is generally peaceful but it does have its hard times. Needham said "It can get very lonely down here. We're not used to coming down here without a radio and a flashlight." Working in the tunnels does have it's advantages. They are cool in the summer, very quiet, private, have a good amount of room, and have access to all the utilities on campus. Bietsch commented "If I could, I would move all my stuff down here and move in."

Bookstore or Snack Shop?

by Monica Saucedo
Valley Star Staff Writer

Potato chips and drinks sell better than textbooks at the Valley College Bookstore. To students, staff, instructors and even administrators, the store is an easy place to buy school supplies and food.

Some food items sell better than others. For instance, most Bookstore patrons will purchase Snickers, Milky Way or Three Musketeers before they will buy a Kit Kat, M & M or Hershey chocolate.

David Dever, assistant store manager, says "The Bookstore is just another convenient place for students." To make it even more convenient, Dever says managers stock items just to fill student needs.

The interest level of some items varies. One popular sales item is greeting cards. For many students, the Bookstore can also be a place to browse around and check out the greeting cards in stock. Night students shop to buy snacks to eat before class. Other students want computer software, dictionaries in a second language or sometimes "Cliff's notes."

What about the textbooks? Most students complain the books are too expensive and the lines are too long. So, logically, books are the one item that does not really sell well, because of the price. Instead, school supplies such as notebooks, paper and pens are the most stocked items. When sales are low, the Bookstore tries to include a 24-hour film developing center.

Besides food, books and supplies, clothing is the next big seller. Sweat shirts, jackets, t-shirts, boxer shorts and back packs are always well stocked. These things, when sold with the Valley College initials or insignia, help build student pride.

But the profits do not stay at Valley College. Dever says the money collected at the Bookstore passes directly to the Los Angeles Community College District. The profit goes to other campuses.

And those famous Valley College Bookstore stuffed animals? There are many on hand for Valentine's Day, along with other nice gifts and candies.

The Bookstore can be just like another Hallmark. Even though students complain about the high book prices, there is an environment inside the Bookstore doors created just for the Valley College student.

Stone: 80 and Still Singing

by Virginia Linn
Valley Star Staff Writer

The lights in the auditorium are turned out. The audience is in pitch blackness as a small bright light goes on the stuage, lighting the countenance of the standing actor, white mask covering half his face. Seated below looking up at him in silhouette is the lovely Christine. He begins to sing in a richly timbered baritone voice, mysteriously: "Nightime sharpens, heightens each sensation, darkness stirs and wakes imagination."

Ben Stone, 80-years-old plus, is recreating one of his many scenes from musical theatre repertoire he has performed for Valley College audiences. This all began five years ago when Stone enrolled in a singing performance class.

Stone's life can be seen as a source of inspiration to those who know him. He started life as one of three children in a New York City family. His father encouraged his children to love music, and they frequently attented Metropolitan Opera performances. Stone's sister was a singer, actress, dancer and concert pianist who set an example for him to pursue his own aspirations in later life. Music was part of the Stone household.

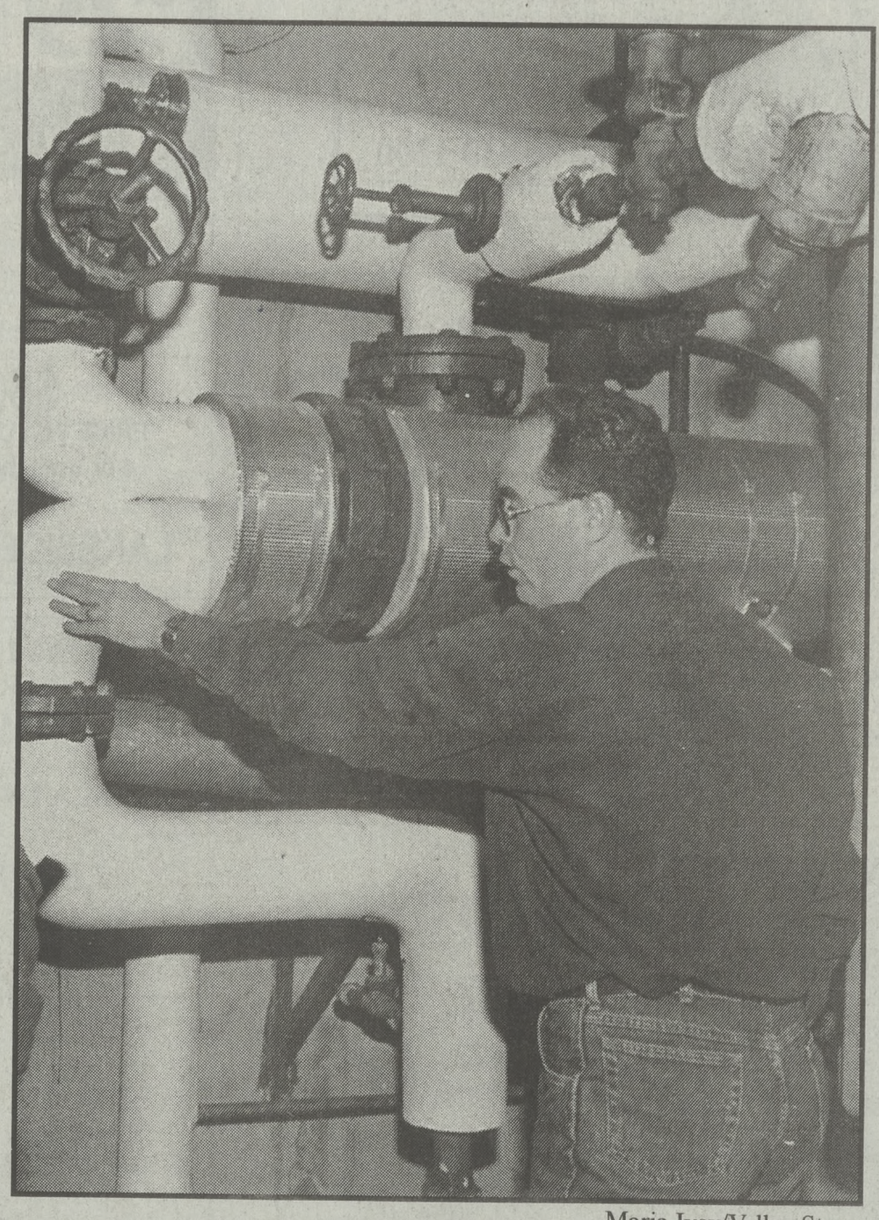
As Stone matured and completed his education, he met a lovely lady, Lillian. They married and raised a boy and a girl. Stone needed to find a secure living and worked until retirement in the retail furniture industry.

Life has not been without challenges for Stone, both physically and emotionally. Stone, always interested in physical fitness, became very involved in weight lifting at a young age. But a serious lower back injury, eventually requiring six hernia operations, stopped Stone's iron pumping activities.

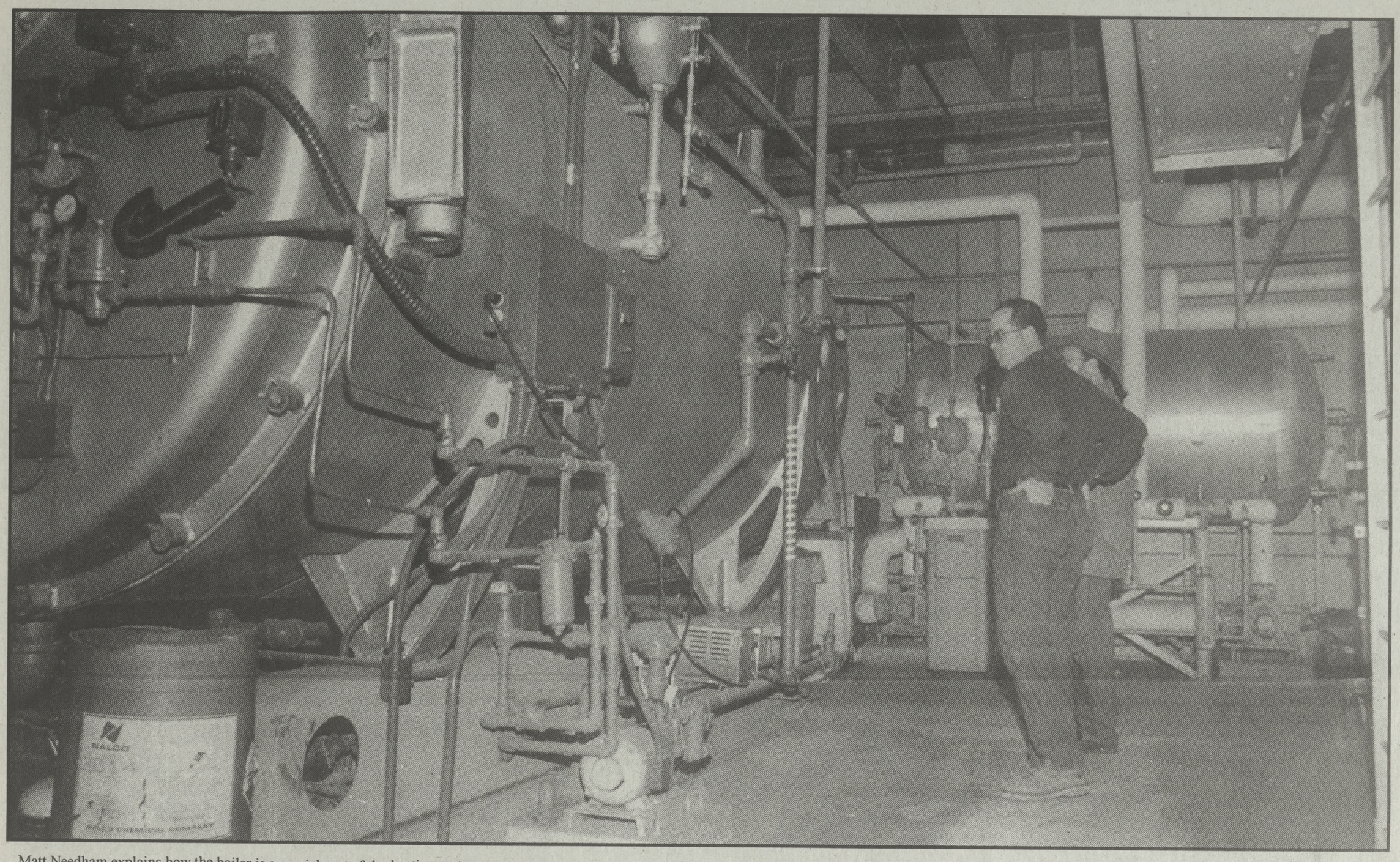
Then came the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Stone's apartment building was condemned and for Stone, it meant a new start at an advanced age.

But how does Stone explain his longevity and great enthusiasm for performing? Stone said, "Stay in shape. I never miss one morning without exercising. My weight has not fluctuated for years and years; I am always the same when I step on the scale each day.

"I also believe one should find good in every person. I have a great love for mankind and through my performing, I have tried to share that feeling with audiences."



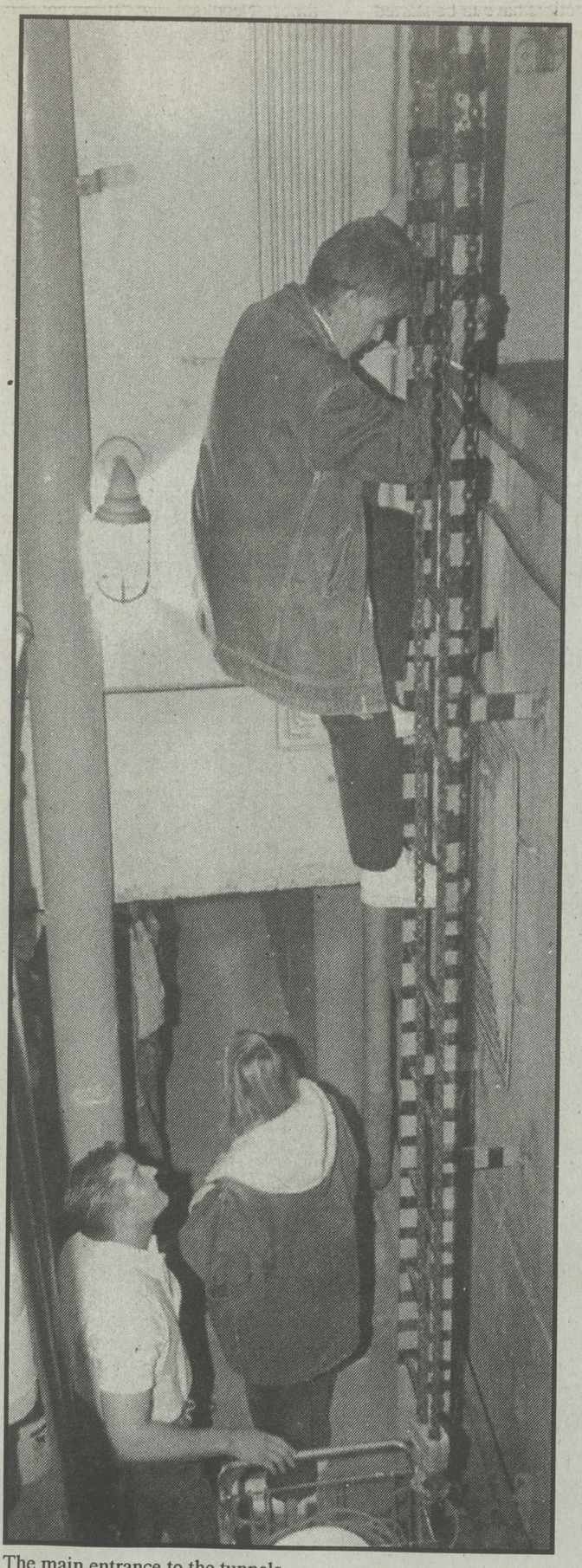
Maria Ivey/Valley Star



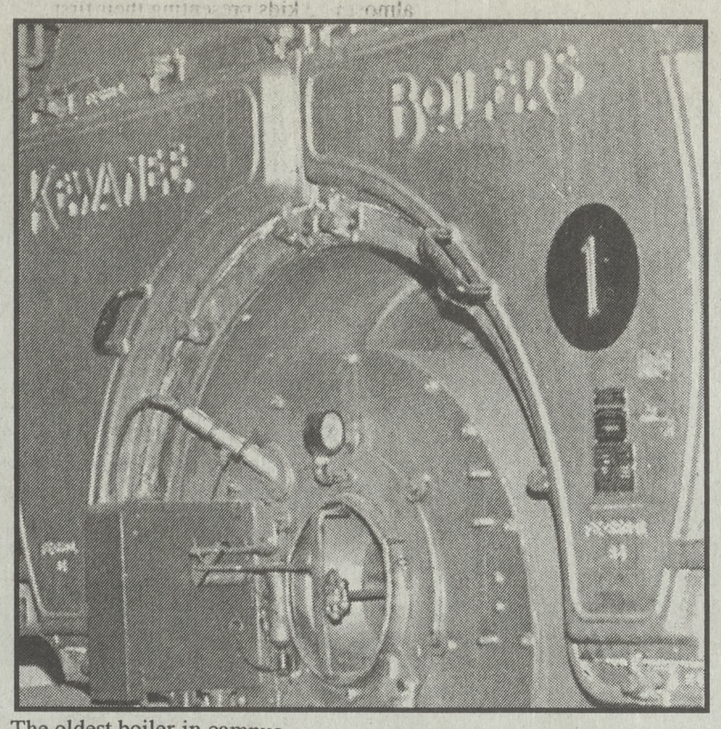
Matt Needham explains how the boiler is a crucial part of the heating system.

Valley's Antiquated Heating System

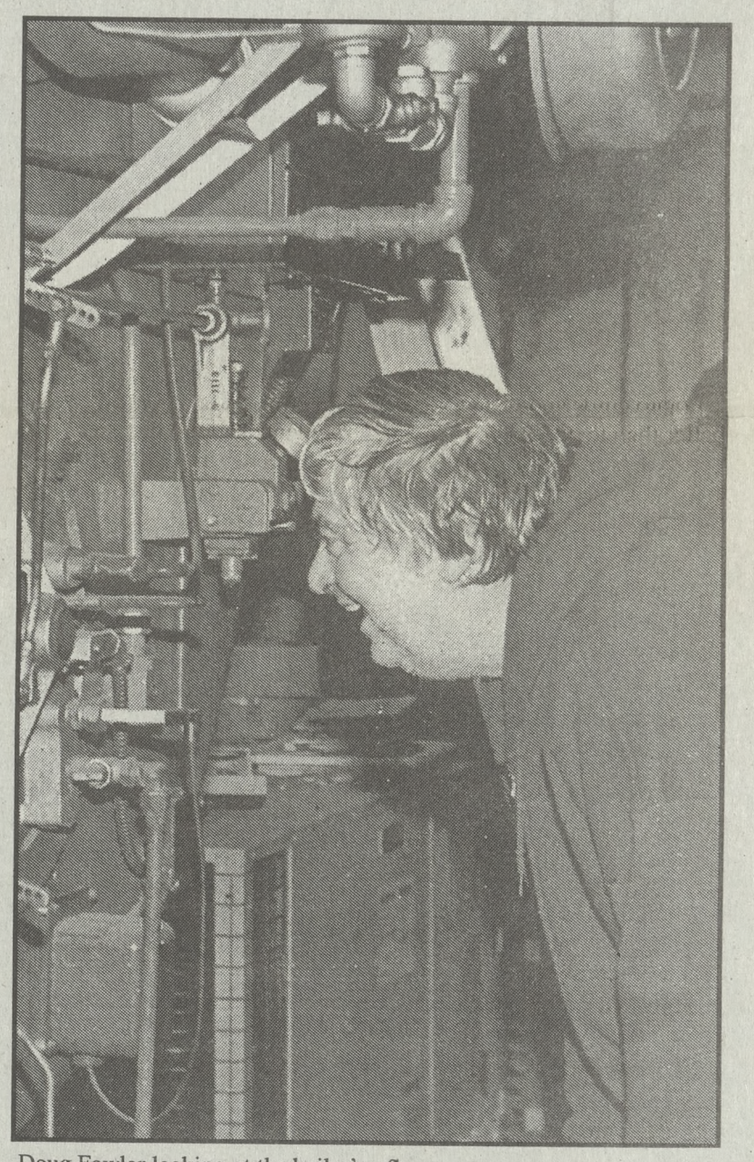
Photos by Maria Ivey



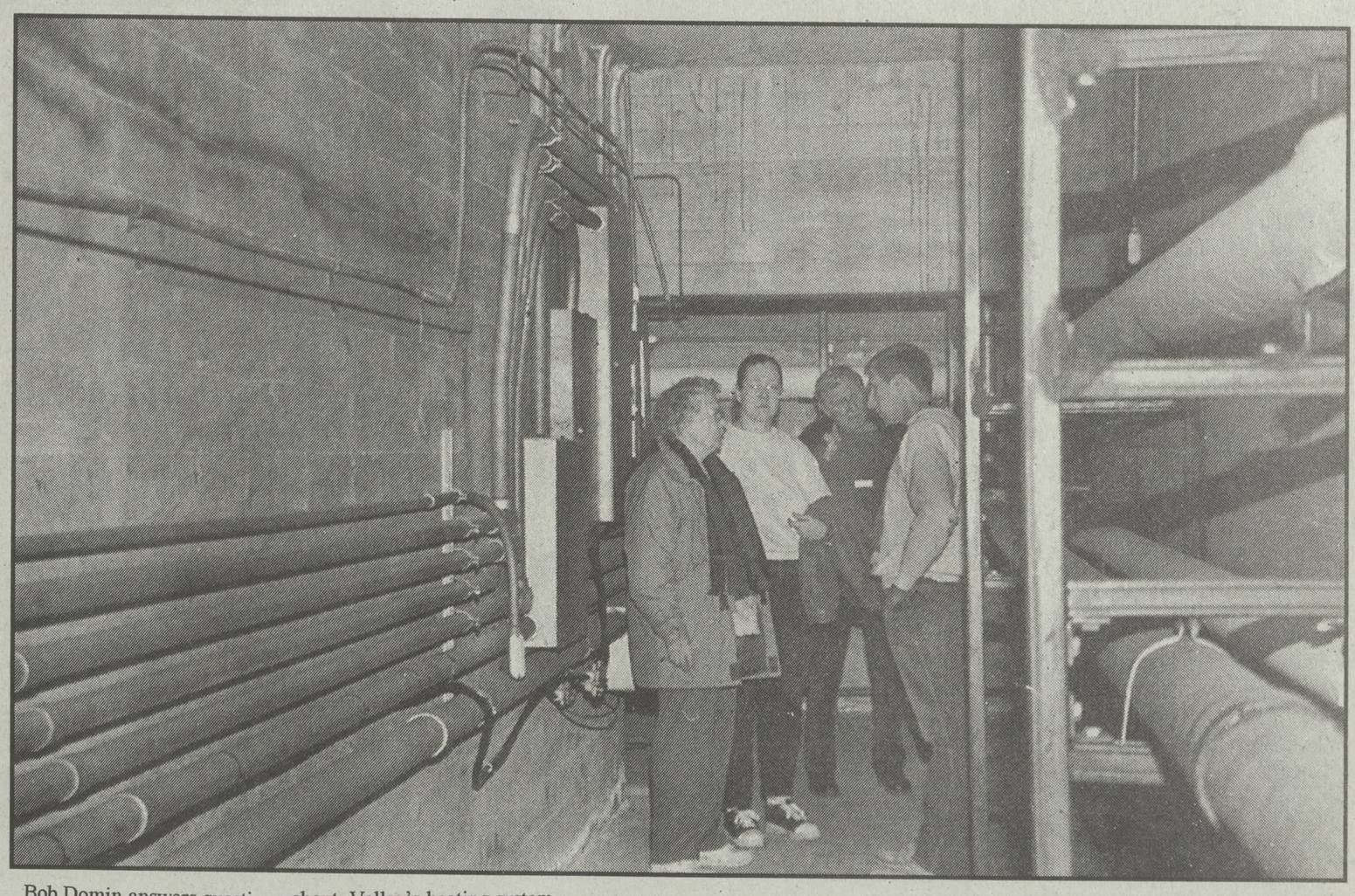
The main entrance to the tunnels.



The oldest boiler in campus.



Doug Fowler looking at the boiler's flame.



Bob Domin answers questions about Valley's heating system.

Two Winning Teams

B-Ball Rounds Out a Great Fall Season

Simmons leads team scoring; Houng ahead in goal assists

by Sierra Roberts
Valley Star Staff Writer

While most students were enjoying their winter vacations and eating leftovers, a select few men and women were sweating their way to another successful basketball season for Valley.

Currently ranked secend in the conference and 18th in the state, the men can be found amid a conference battle. Their 4-2 record is tied with Santa Monica and just behind Bakersfield in the Southern Division of the Western State Conference (W.S.C.).

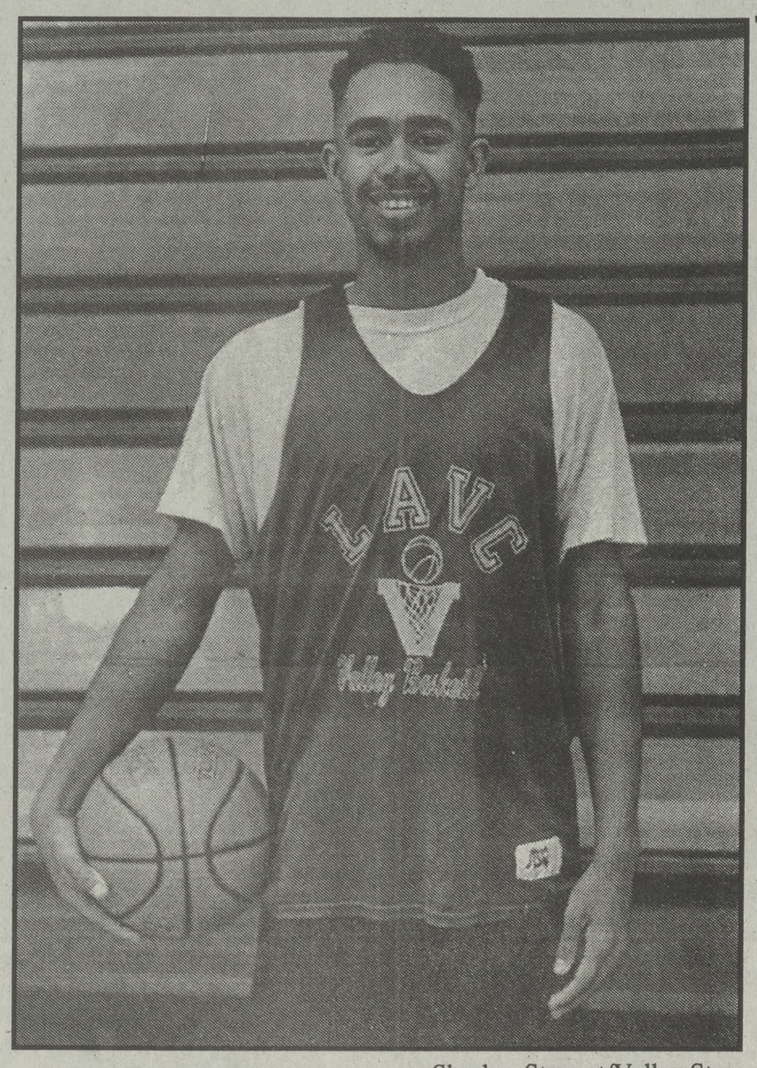
Their overall 19-9 record can be attributed to many outstanding team leaders. Sophomore Vernon Simmons leads the Monarchs in scoring with 17 points per game and 8.4 rebounds. Simmons is ranked third in the Southern Division in scoring with 68 points after just four games. Freshman Benny Houng leads in assists with 5.3 per game.

With high set goals, this confident team has just a few games left. Saturday night they're up against Bakersfield to whom they lost 70-77 earlier in the season. Athletic Director, Chuck Ferrero, attributes much of the "outstanding season" to the coaches of both teams.

First place in the conference is a position the Lady Monarchs are happy to be situated at. With a 6-0 conference record and 19 wins and nine losses overall, these ladies can be proud to play for Valley.

Contributing to the ladies success is the talent of a few key players. Freshman Shawanda Hotchkiss is ranked second in the division with an average of 17.3 points per game. The W.S.C. player of the week honor was awarded to Jacque Tennies who averages 13.5 points per game and 7.7 rebounds.

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH



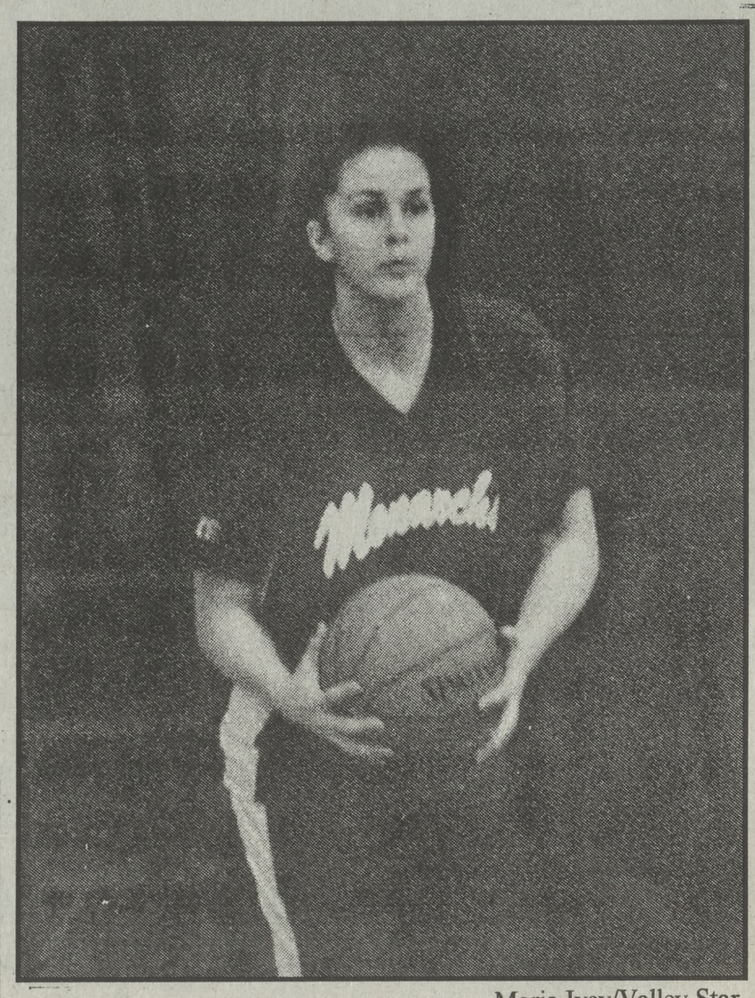
Shashra Stewart/Valley Star

Michael Farmer, 6'
Grade Level: Sophomore Position: Point Guard
High School Attended: Sylmar

Achievements: Western State Conference "Player of the Week," averages 10.5 points per game, 5.1 assists per game, Co-Captain of the 18th ranked team in the state and received Honorable Mention All W.S.C. 1995 last season.

Jacque Tennies, 5' 10"
Grade Level: Freshman Position:Guard/Forward
High School Attended: West Covina

Achievements: Western State Conference "Player of the Week," averages 13.5 points per game, 8 rebounds and 3 assists per game, career game played against College of the Canyons where she scored 27 points, 13 rebounds and 7 assists.



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